# WITCHES' TALES

K 47358

MARCH 1974

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THE SCREAMING THINGS

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FANGS OF HORROR!

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# WITCHES' TALES

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CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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SCAN BY, SCAN-LEE 2013

# FANGS OF HORROR

THE OLD CASTLE HOVERED OVER THE AGELESS RHINE LIKE SOME GREAT EVIL BAT, WAITING TO POUNCE UPON ITS PREY! BUT THERE WAS A WORSE FATE INSIDE THE CASTLE - THERE WAS DEATH! HORRIBLE DEATH OF THE MIND AND SOUL! SO ON A COLD AND STORMY NIGHT, TWO PEOPLE CAME TO THE MOULDERING OLD RUIN TO SPEND A FEW HOURS AND LIVED TO SEE THE DAWN OF DOOM...

YOU DON'T MIND A POOR OLD LADY JOINING YOU WHILE YOU READ THIS STORY, DO YOU, MY DEARS? OF COURSE NOT! AND IT'S - HEE HEE - SUCH A NICE TRUESOME STORY, TOO...

THE STORY STARTS AT AN OLD CASTLE ON THE RHINE THAT HAD BEEN ROTTING AWAY FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS...

I'LL TAKE TIME OUT WHILE MAKING THIS SHROUD TO TELL THIS TALE! I - (CHUCKLE) HOPE NONE OF YOU HAVE WEAK HEARTS! I (CACKLE) WOULD HATE TO PUT THIS SHROUD ON YOU!

THE PLACE WAS CALLED WEREWOLF CASTLE, AND ON THIS NIGHT THERE WAS A LIGHT IN ONE OF THE CASTLE WINDOWS...
AND NOT FAR AWAY WERE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE ON THEIR HONEYMOON.
LOOK, JOYCE, A SIGN AHEAD! NOW MAYBE WE CAN FIND OUT WHERE WE ARE!
I HOPE SO! I'M A TIRED AND HUNGRY GIRL!
HA HA! JUST LOOK AT THAT! WEREWOLF CASTLE! OF ALL THE NAMES! THIS WE'VE GOT TO SEE!
WEREWOLF CASTLE
UGH- I DON'T LIKE THAT NAME! AND HOW DO WE KNOW THEY'LL TAKE US IN FOR THE NIGHT?
OF COURSE THEY WILL! THERE IS A LIGHT ON! THESE PEOPLE ARE VERY HOSPITABLE!
YOU AND YOUR CRAZY IDEAS, MARK! STRANGERS LIKE US FORCING OURSELVES ON PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE WE THINK THEY WON'T TURN US AWAY!
HO-HO! I'LL BET ANYTHING IT'S OWNED BY A POVERTY STRICKEN BARON OR SOMETHING, WHO'S RUNNING IT AS AN INN!
ALL OUT FOR WEREWOLF CASTLE! SEE, SOMEONE IS OPENING THE DOOR ALREADY!
THIS ATMOSPHERE IS SO CREEPY! UGH! WELL, MAYBE I'LL FEEL BETTER AFTER A NICE HOT MEAL!

AS THE ANCIENT DOOR CREAKS OPEN.
HELLO! CAN YOU PUT US UP FOR THE NIGHT!?
COME IN, PLEASE! WELCOME TO WEREWOLF CASTLE!
FOLLOW ME! THE BARON AND BARONESS WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU! WE VERY SELDOM GET STRANGERS HERE!
GOOD EVENING! I AM THE BARONESS GOTHA!
AND I AM BARON GOTHA! GLAD YOU STOPPED BY!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
COME, MY DEAR, I KNOW YOU MUST BE TIRED! I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM!
GO AHEAD, JOYCE! I'LL STAY AND CHAT WITH THE BARON FOR A FEW MINUTES!
SO YOU FIND OUR CASTLE INTERESTING, MR. HANSON?
I CERTAINLY DO! WEREWOLVES, OF ALL THINGS! I'VE HEARD SO MANY STORIES...
SOME OF THOSE STORIES ARE QUITE TRUE! IN FACT, A WEREWOLF USED TO LIVE IN THIS VERY CASTLE!
THE CASE IS LISTED HERE IN THE HISTORY OF THE GOTHA FAMILY! YOU SEE, THE WEREWOLF WAS ONE OF MY ANCESTORS! IT SHOULD MAKE PLEASANT READING, IF YOU CAN'T SLEEP!

MEANTIME, ON ANOTHER FLOOR IN THE OLD CASTLE...
THANK YOU, BARONESS, YOU'RE VERY KIND!
YOU'RE PERFECTLY WELCOME, MY DEAR! WE'RE SO PLEASED TO HAVE YOU!
SLEEP WELL! AND IF YOU SHOULD HEAR STRANGE NOISES, DON'T BE ALARMED! IT WILL (CHUCKLE) ONLY BE THE BATS IN THE OLD DUNGEON!
AS JOYCE HANSON PREPARES FOR BED, SHE HAS A STRANGE SENSE OF FORBODING, THE CASTLE SEEMS TO BREATHE AROUND HER...
B-BATS! DUNGEONS! UGH! NOW WHY DID SHE HAVE TO SAY THAT! THIS PLACE IS BAD ENOUGH AS IT IS!
OOOO! THE SHEETS ARE SO DANK AND CLAMMY! I'M SO TIRED, I'M AFRAID I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY AWAKE UNTIL MARK COMES UPSTAIRS! YIIIE! THE BED'S MOVING!
THE BED SWINGS THROUGH AN OPENING IN THE WALL THROWING THE TERRIFIED WOMAN INTO A PLACE OF HORROR! IN A DIM LIGHT SHE SEES SKULLS LEERING AT HER...
W-WHERE AM I? WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO ME? HELP—HELP! MARK HELP ME!

AT THAT MOMENT SOMETHING FLITS FROM A WINDOW HIGH ON THE CASTLE WALL! A WEIRD TRANSFORMATION HAS COME OVER THE BARONESS!
EVERYTHING IS WORKING OUT JUST AS WE PLANNED! NOW FOR THE BUSINESS OF THE NIGHT!
WHAT LUCK THAT THOSE TWO FOOLS STOPPED HERE TONIGHT! NOW THE BARON AND I CAN BE FREE TO DIE LIKE OTHER PEOPLE!
BUT BEFORE WE DO, WE'LL HAVE ONE LAST FLING! BUT WHAT'S THE BARON STILL WITH THE MAN FOR? HE KNOWS THE GIRL IS FOR HIM! THE MAN IS FOR ME!
BUT THE BARON IS LEAVING HIS GUEST...
EXCUSE ME, HANSON, I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING OUTSIDE!
SURE, BARON! I THINK I'LL JOIN MY WIFE! GOODNIGHT!
FOOL! KNOW NOW THAT MY HUSBAND IS THE WEREWOLF - AND HE'S AFTER YOUR WIFE NOW!
AND YOU ARE MINE NOW!
SO BEHIND THE GRIM FACADE OF THE CASTLE THE SCREAMING BEGINS! BUT MARK HANSON IS POWERLESS AGAINST THE VAMPIRE...
AHA - MY TEETH SINK EASILY INTO YOUR THROAT!

MEANWHILE...
WHILE THE BARONESS IS ENTERTAINING HERSELF, I HAVE MY OWN WORK!
I DEMAND TO KNOW THE MEANING OF THIS OUTRAGE!
YOU DEMAND, EH? BUT I AM GIVING THE ORDERS NOW - AND YOU ARE COMPLETELY IN MY POWER!
BEFORE THE EYES OF THE ASTONISHED AND TERRIFIED GIRL, THE BARON TAKES ON THE LOATHSOME FORM OF A WEREWOLF...
N-NO PLEASE! STAY AWAY FROM ME! DON'T- AHHHHH-
NO USE, MY DEAR! ALL THOSE WHO VISIT WEREWOLF CASTLE MUST SUFFER THE SAME FATE!
THE MOMENT YOU PEOPLE TOOK THE WRONG ROAD TONIGHT - AND IT WAS THE WRONG ROAD, AS YOU'LL ADMIT NOW - YOU WERE BOTH DOOMED! THIS HAD TO HAPPEN!
AAAAAAH- HELP! MARK, HELP!
THE BARONESS IS TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOUR HUSBAND! SHE IS A VAMPIRE AS YOU WILL SOON BE! NOW...
THE SCREAMS GROW LOUDER AND LOUDER! THE SOUNDS OF A MAN AND WOMAN IN ANGUISH! ONLY THE CASTLE KNOWS HOW MANY TIMES, DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, IT HAS HEARD THE SAME SOUNDS OF DOOM...

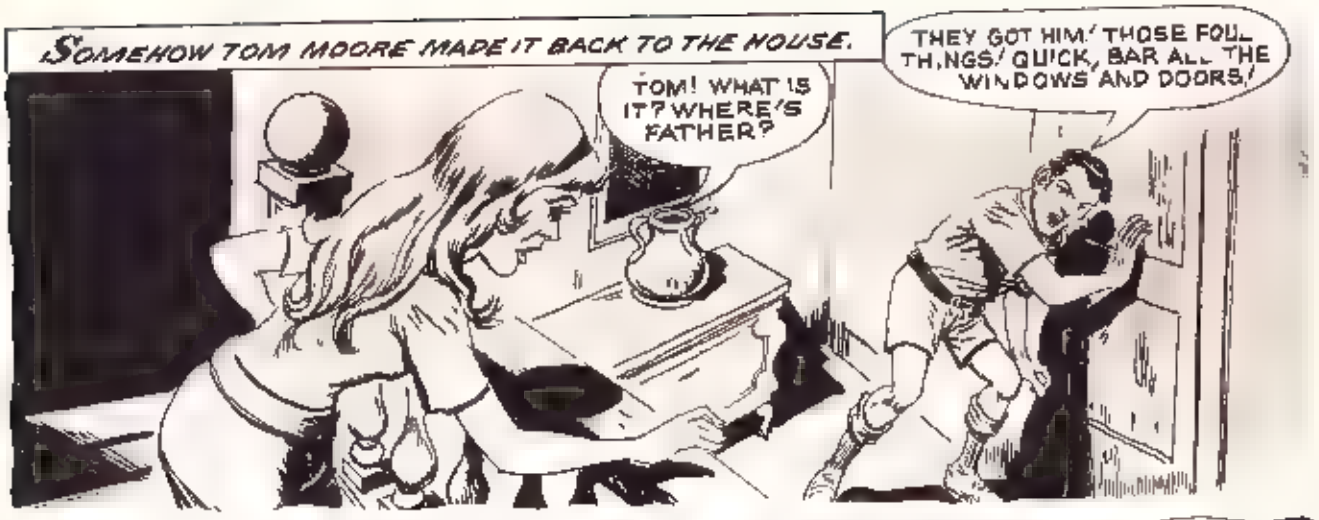
FINALLY THE HORRIBLE SCREAMS DIE AWAY... THE SUN BREAKS THROUG THE CLOUDS TO FORM A BLOODY HALO IN THE EAST!
IN THE DUNGEON, JOYCE HANSON SWIMS UP FROM A DEEP SLUMBER! SHE STARES AROUND AT HER GRIM SURROUNDINGS WITHOUT REMEMBRANCE OF THE NIGHT'S TERRIBLE EVENTS...
OWW! MY THROAT... SO SORE! HOW DID I GET HERE?
A MOMENT LATER...
MARK DARLING, WHAT HAPPENED TO US? I-I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING! IT JUST SEEMS THAT I HAD A HORRIBLE DREAM!
I DON'T KNOW, EITHER! THE LAST THING I REMEMBER I WAS IN THE STUDY AND THE BARON WAS LEAVING! BUT WAIT... WHERE ARE THEY?
MARK HANSON AWAKENS IN THE STUDY, WITH ONLY A HAZY NOTION OF WHAT THE NIGHT HAS BROUGHT! BUT HE KNOWS ONE THING—THAT HE MUST FIND HIS WIFE AT ONCE...
I-I MUST HAVE SLEPT DOWN HERE ALL NIGHT! JOYCE! WHERE IS MY WIFE? I M-MUST FIND HER AT ONCE!
BEHIND THEM...
HEE-HEE-HEE! NO USE LOOKING FOR THE BARON AND BARONESS! THEY WON'T BE COMING BACK! EVER! YOU'RE THE NEW TENANTS OF WEREWOLF CASTLE!
US!
YES, YOU! YOU ARE NOW A WEREWOLF, AND YOUR WIFE IS A VAMPIRE! AS THE GOTHAS WERE! YOU WILL REMAIN THAT WAY UNTIL SOMEONE ELSE STOPS HERE, AND YOU TREAT THEM AS YOU WERE TREATED! YOU HAD BETTER—(CHUCKLE) HOPE THAT IT IS SOON!
HEE-HEE! THAT'S THE STORY, MY DEARS! NOT PRETTY, IS IT? AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, THEN JUST GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF! WEREWOLF CASTLE IS STILL WAITING! AND NOW I MUST GO TOO, FOR THERE IS A CORPSE WAITING FOR THIS SHROUD!

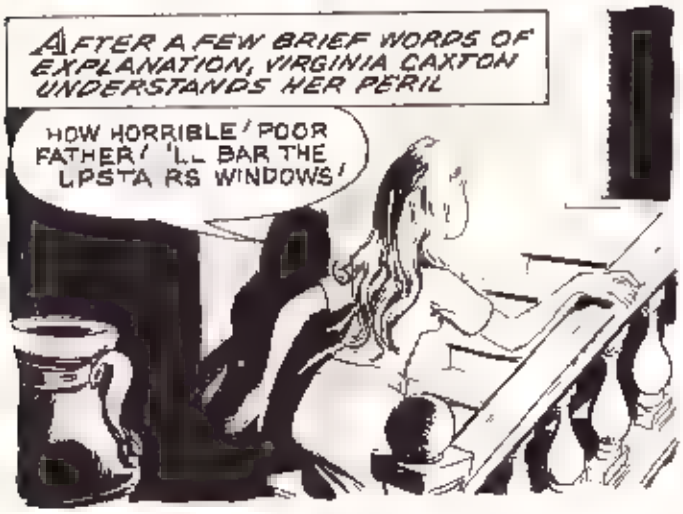
# THE SCREAMING THINGS

LATER, IN A TEA FIELD.
YOU SEE, SIR? THE MANDRAKE IS EVERYWHERE! RIGHT IN WITH THE TEA!
THAT IS STRANGE! THEY'VE NEVER INVADED THE TEA FIELDS BEFORE!
THAT ISN'T ALL! THE ROOTS ARE LARGER-AND THEY LOOK MORE LIKE-LIKE HUMANS THAN EVER BEFORE! BUT JUST LISTEN, SIR! LISTEN!
THERE! HEAR THAT? REMEMBER THE OLD SUPERSTITION, SIR?
AYEEEEEEEEEEE
THAT NOISE! THE ROOT SCREAMED!
I'M FLABBERGASTED, TOM! IT DID SCREAM, YET IT'S ONLY A ROOT! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
I DON'T KNOW, SIR! BUT I DO KNOW ONE THING-THE TEA PLANTS ARE ALL DYING!
I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT! WE'RE BOTH MAD! I'LL TRY ANOTHER ONE!
AAAAHHHHHHHHHHHH

LATE THAT NIGHT A TROPICAL STORM WHIPS AROUND MANDRAKE MANOR
STRANGE HOW I KEEP HEARING THINGS OUT THERE! LIKE THE SOUND OF THOSE MANDRAKE ROOTS, THIS AFTERNOON!
SUDDENLY, TOM MOORE, THE OVERSEER LURCHES INTO THE ROOM..
MR. CAXTON! THEY'RE GROWING LIKE MAD! AND SCREAMING! I SAW THEM!
SAW WHAT, MAN?
THE MANDRAKE, SIR! THIS WARM RAIN HAS MADE THEM SPROUT! THEY'RE ALMOST AS BIG AS A MAN! AND THEY'RE SCREAMING- OR TALKING AMONG THEMSELVES!
I THINK YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING-OR DRINKING! BUT COME ON! I'LL TAKE THIS MACHETE JUST IN CASE!
BETTER NOT GO OUT THERE, SIR!
TOM MOORE GETS A MACHETE AND FOLLOWS OLIVER CAXTON...
FUNNY NOISES ALRIGHT! LIKE THAT THING TODAY!
I TOLD YOU! THEY'RE, TALKING!
SUDDENLY THEY ARE CONFRONTED BY A SIGHT THAT FREEZES THEM IN THEIR TRACKS
GREAT SCOTT! IT'S A A MANDRAKE ROOT! BIG AS WE ARE!
IT'S ALIVE, SIR! DANGEROUS!

MORE OF THEM! THEY'RE ATTACKING!
HURRY! BACK TO THE HOUSE!
EEEEEEE
ARRROOOOOOGG
BUT
CUTTING US OFF! THEY'RE INTELLIGENT! THEY THINK!
HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY THROUGH!
TAKE THAT YOU-YOU VEGETABLE MONSTER!
ARRGG
GLUGGGGGGG
THAT'LL CRIPPLE YOU!
GHHHH
WHILE OLIVER CAXTON GOES DOWN UNDER AN ONSLAUGHT OF THE EERIE CREATURES.
HELP! KILLING ME-GAAAA-
RRRRRNNNN
EEEEEEEEEE
THEN TOM MOORE'S BLOOD TURNS TO ICE
IT G-GREW A NEW ARM!
GHHHHH!


SOMEHOW TOM MOORE MADE IT BACK TO THE HOUSE.
TOM! WHAT IS IT? WHERE'S FATHER?
THEY GOT HIM! THOSE FOUL THINGS! QUICK, BAR ALL THE WINDOWS AND DOORS!

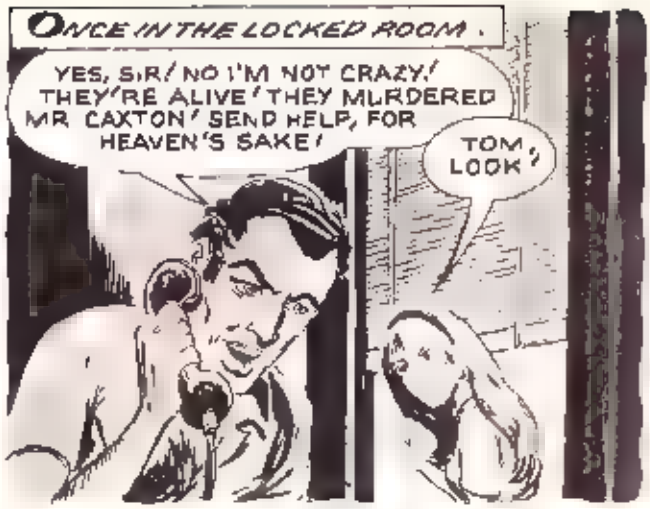

AFTER A FEW BRIEF WORDS OF EXPLANATION, VIRGINIA CAXTON UNDERSTANDS HER PERIL
HOW HORRIBLE! POOR FATHER! I'LL BAR THE UPSTAIRS WINDOWS!

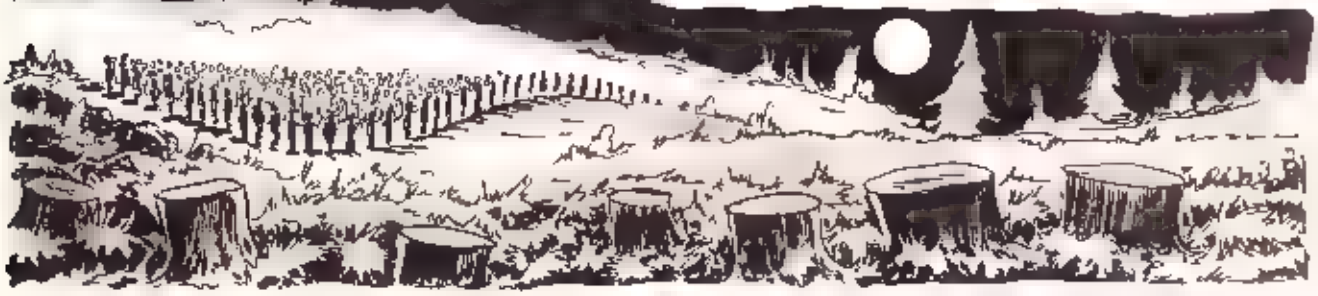
TOM! UP HERE! HELP!
AGRRR

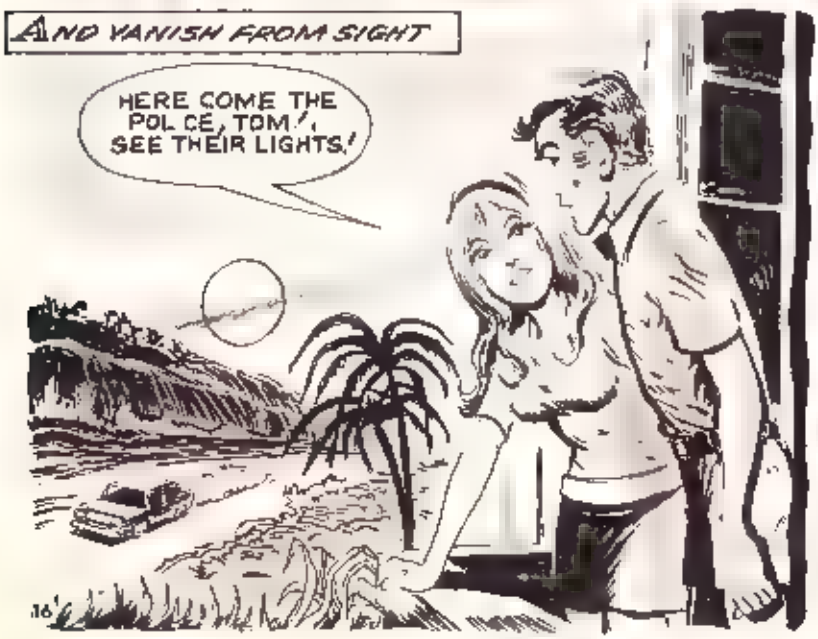
HELP!
UNGGGGGGG

HELP! OH NO-NO-AHHHHHH-
THEY'VE GOT VIRGINIA!

I'LL SAVE YOU, VIRGINIA!
RRRRRRRRR
OHHHH!

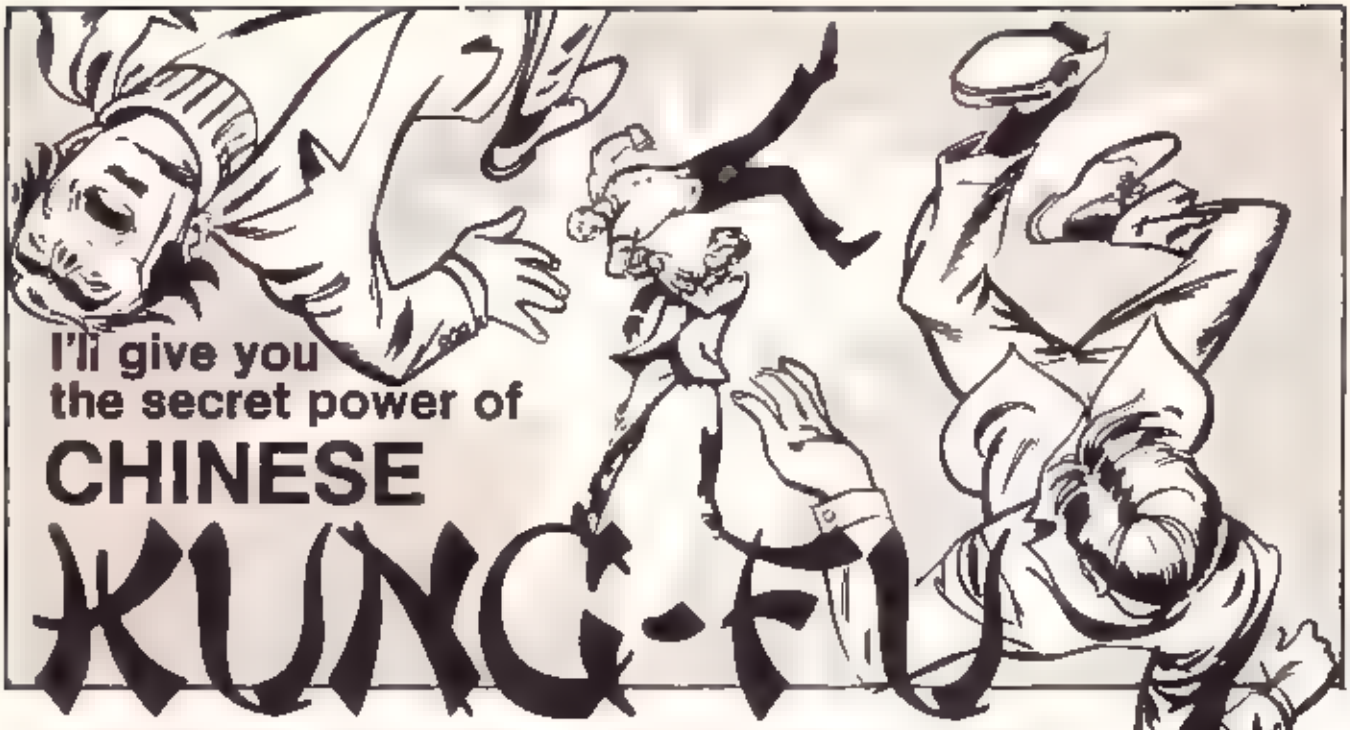




THEY WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN! IT WAS AS THOUGH THE EARTH HAD SWALLOWED THEM! BUT SOMEWHERE THOSE TERRIBLE LEGIONS STILL MARCH AND, PERHAPS SOON, THEY WILL STRIKE AGAIN!

THE END




# The Deadly Oriental Fighting Art of Instantaneous Death That Requires No Strength or CLOSE BODY CONTACT.

- ★ Self-defense without torturous training or rigorous exercise
- ★ Instant self-defense for the weak, the defenseless, the fearful and the untrained.
- ★ Makes your body a live fighting machine! Hands, feet, elbows even fingers become deadly weapons of defense.
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**Revealed at last! The most secret, the most respected, the most effective of all the Oriental fighting arts—KUNG FU.** *So simple that if you can read then you can easily master the theory of this "flick-of-the-wrist" technique.* **KUNG FU works on a secret principle yet its deadly force is easy to learn and easier still to apply. KUNG FU can take any one* without training and make him a fighting machine in seconds.**

### THE SECRET OF KUNG FU REVEALED AT LAST

KUNG FU is a fast and [illegible] method of self defense that was hurled in the [illegible] species of the past [illegible] a part of a mystic Oriental cult. Its deadly fighting secrets were only taught by Shaolin Priests to those considered worthy by [illegible] years of preparation and testing. KUNG FU was hidden from the public. Yet in spite of secret efforts to keep it from the world word of its unique power spread. Masters of other fighting arts soon learned to fear and respect its techniques. *The teaching that KUNG FU harnesses certain dormant forces within you, whether you to double [illegible] do every with just a lightning flick-of-the-wrist and that KUNG FU requires no strength or extra [illegible] KUNG FU [illegible] never require [illegible] strength [illegible] trick.*

### HOW KUNG FU WORKS

KUNG FU is based on a simple yet lethally effective principle. [illegible] natural power of your own movements. KUNG FU shows you how to take advantage of these fundamental laws of nature [illegible] movement. [illegible] is added to the very movements against you [illegible] **that all forces are added together and unleased against your opponent.** This is KUNG [illegible] so simple yet so devastating that its techniques have stunned the world.

### [illegible] THAN OTHER FORMS OF SELF DEFENSE

KUNG FU is better than all other forms of self defense. Its secret lies in its simplicity and in its ability to overcome an attacker WITHOUT [illegible] TE BODY CONTACT. Now if you can read or look at pictures then you should be able to master the [illegible] this flick-of-the-wrist technique. [illegible] AN WIN EVEN IF YOUR OPPONENT [illegible] GER AND STRONGER THAN YOU. [illegible] KUNG FU means literally [illegible] **every part of your body is a fearful weapon.** [illegible] hand [illegible] weapons [illegible] BRUTE FORCE [illegible] POWER OR BRUTE FORCE [illegible] this [illegible] hundreds of dollars [illegible]

### WHAT KUNG FU WILL MEAN TO YOU

With so many crimes of violence about us you could be in danger anytime of being hurt or worse humiliated! BUT NOW YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. **You can protect yourself, your family and your property with deadly efficiency in mere seconds.** Yes anyone [illegible] hours years of training hundreds of dollars in [illegible] and with no long, painful practice. Regardless of size or strength or build you can beat the bullies and bests the bads. Thanks to KUNG FU [illegible] need no [illegible] again. You can leave [illegible] be hurt or be shamed. You can be the one that gives the beating. You can [illegible] dangerous situations.

### WHY KUNG FU MAKES ALL THIS POSSIBLE

Why? **Because KUNG FU is as deadly as it is simple.** And [illegible] other forms of self defense like Judo or Karate require months of special such as strength, speed, etc. [illegible] to say nothing of endless practice. A Judo Black Belt Master for example must practice technique after technique [illegible] and take years to master it all. NOT SO WITH KUNG FU! **It's based on an entirely different concept.** Technique and form aren't very important. DEFENSE IN KUNG FU is designed to help you defend yourself in most situations with *an absolute minimum in effort and a minimum in [illegible]*

### COMPLETE COURSE REVEALED [illegible]

The SECRETS OF KUNG FU are fully revealed in one amazing "how to" book. The course comes complete and there's nothing else to learn or buy. You find all the secret principles and techniques simple [illegible] easy to apply. You don't need any special apparatus or practice dummies. And once you master the SECRETS OF KUNG FU you can forget about other systems and other methods. So in the privacy of your home, you can learn the deadliest fighting secrets of all time at your [illegible] own pace. In just minutes you can find out how to deliver a crippling blow that leaves your opponent powerless and more. In seconds you can learn how to destroy your attacker's ability to fight and much, much more. The fully revealed SECRETS OF KUNG FU are so astounding that we make you this surprisingly UNCONDITIONAL 3 WAY GUARANTEE. You must be satisfied not just one way but fully 3 different ways or it costs you nothing.

*We do not claim that physically handicapped or other disadvantaged persons can perform these feats. Nor are these techniques claimed to be effective against anyone armed with a loaded gun.

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We're so sure that SECRETS OF KUNG FU is everything you'll ever want or need we make this unprecedented 3 Way guarantee. You must be absolutely and completely satisfied with the SECRETS OF KUNG FU and (2) KUNG FU must never fail you in fact KUNG FU must help you fulfill every threatening "confrontation" into victory and (3) KUNG FU must give you a sense of confidence and assurance you've never had before. Yes SECRETS OF KUNG FU must do all this and more or return it **any time** for a refund of your purchase price with no questions asked. You are the sole judge could anything be fairer?

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Rush me the complete course of SECRETS OF KUNG FU. You guarantee me complete satisfaction 3 Ways or I'll return the course at any time with no a refund of my purchase price and there will be no questions asked. I promise in return to use the deadly knowledge of KUNG Fu for defense only and that I will never use its secrets as an aggressor ever.

I enclose $5.00 in Cash Check Money Order. Please add $.[illegible] additional to cover postage and handling. SORRY NO C.O.D.'s

NAME _____

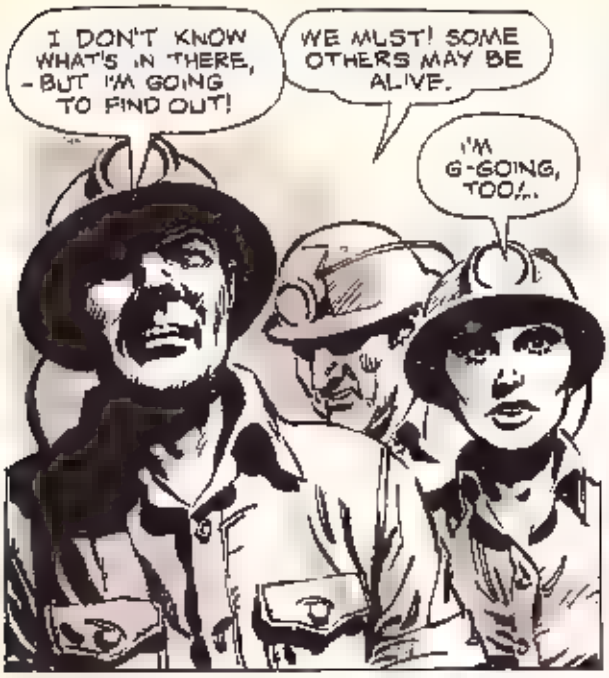
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

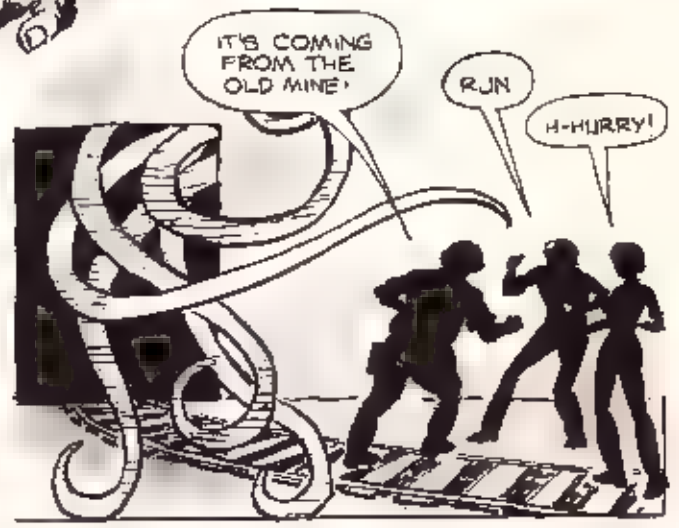
# TERROR TUNNEL

NEXT DAY...
WELL, SIR, ALMOST READY JUST HAVE TO GO DOWN AND SET OFF THE CHARGES
FINE! SAY, ISN'T THAT PRUE COMING THIS WAY?
HELLO, YOU TWO! I'M GOING DOWN WITH YOU.
NOW, PRUE! YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE YOU IN THE MINE!
SHE'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH, SIR
I HOPE YOU'RE ALWAYS AS TACTFUL WHEN WE'RE MARRIED, TOO!
I WILL BE.
HUMMP-I STILL DON'T LIKE IT, BUT I'M ONLY YOUR FATHER!
LATER...
SAY-THIS OLD PASSAGE IS SPOOKY!
JUST AHEAD IS THE OLD MINE!
HEY-YOU HEAR ANYTHING? LIKE A SCREAM?
SUDDENLY...
...G-GET BACK! ...IT'S COMING! ...K-KILLED ALL OF THEM! ...H-HORRIBLE!!
GREAT SCOTT!
CATCH HIM! HE'S FALLING
SOMETHING-(SOB)- ...HORRIBLE BACK IN MINE! KILLED- I-I-
HE'S DYING!
WHAT WAS IT?
19


I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN THERE, -BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT!
WE MUST! SOME OTHERS MAY BE ALIVE.
I'M G-GOING, TOO!...

A MINUTE LATER...
LOOK: ALL DEAD!
OHHHH-
BUT HOW? THERE WAS NO EXPLOSION, NO CAVE-IN! -WHAT KILLED THEM??

TOD! FATHER! T-THERE COMING OUT OF THAT HOLE...


IT'S COMING FROM THE OLD MINE!
RUN
H-HURRY!

FASTER IT'S TRYING TO CUT US OFF.
OH, IT'S HORRIBLE!

BUT OUT OF THE SHADOWS...

TOD BREAKS AWAY AND RUNS...

...COMING AFTER M-ME! GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING FAST

TOD FINDS SOME EXPLOSIVES IN ANOTHER PASSAGE...

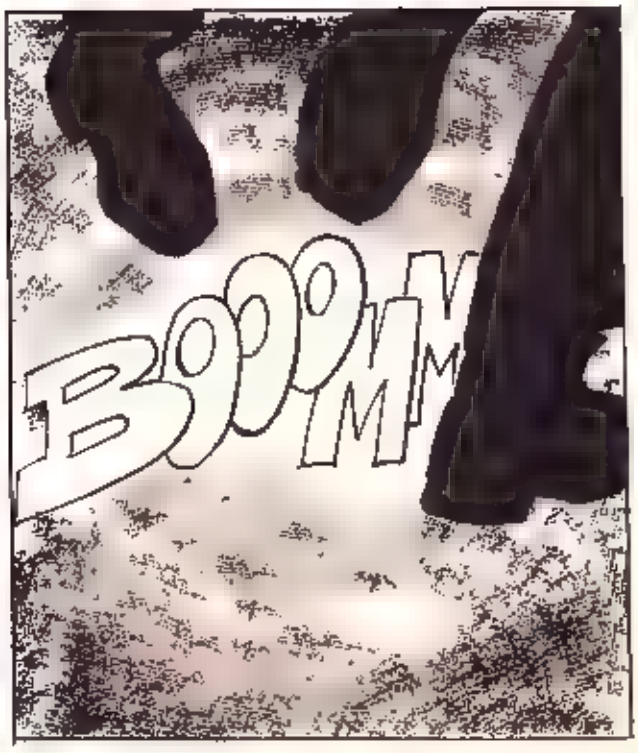
MY ONLY CHANCE, IF I CAN BLOW THIS PASSAGE BEFORE IT GETS HERE, I'LL BLOCK IT OFF...

DANGER
DYNAMITE

SECONDS MEANT LIFE OR DEATH IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE UNKNOWN HORROR...

I'LL PROBABLY BRING THE WHOLE SHAFT IN ON OUR HEADS, BUT I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE CHANCE.

- SHORTEST FUSE I EVER LIT! GOT TO HURRY OR WE'LL GO UP WITH IT!

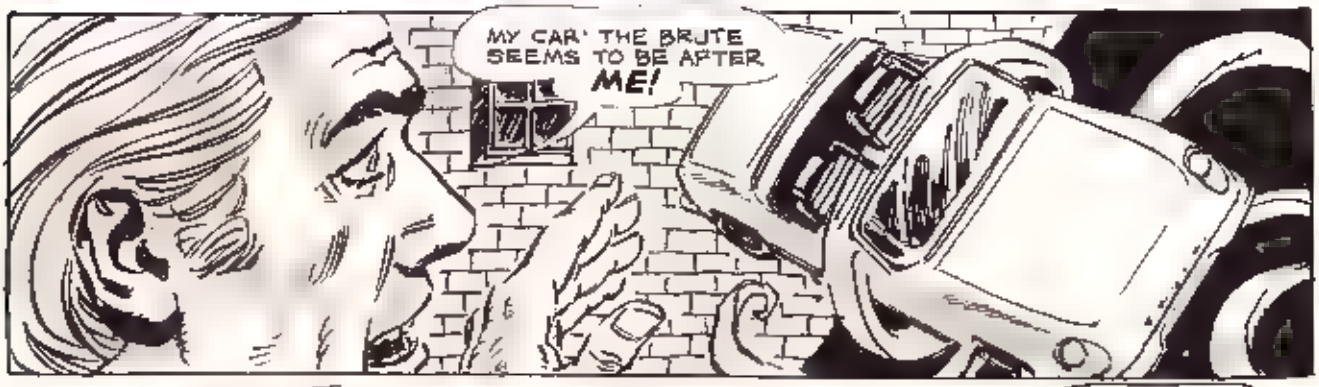


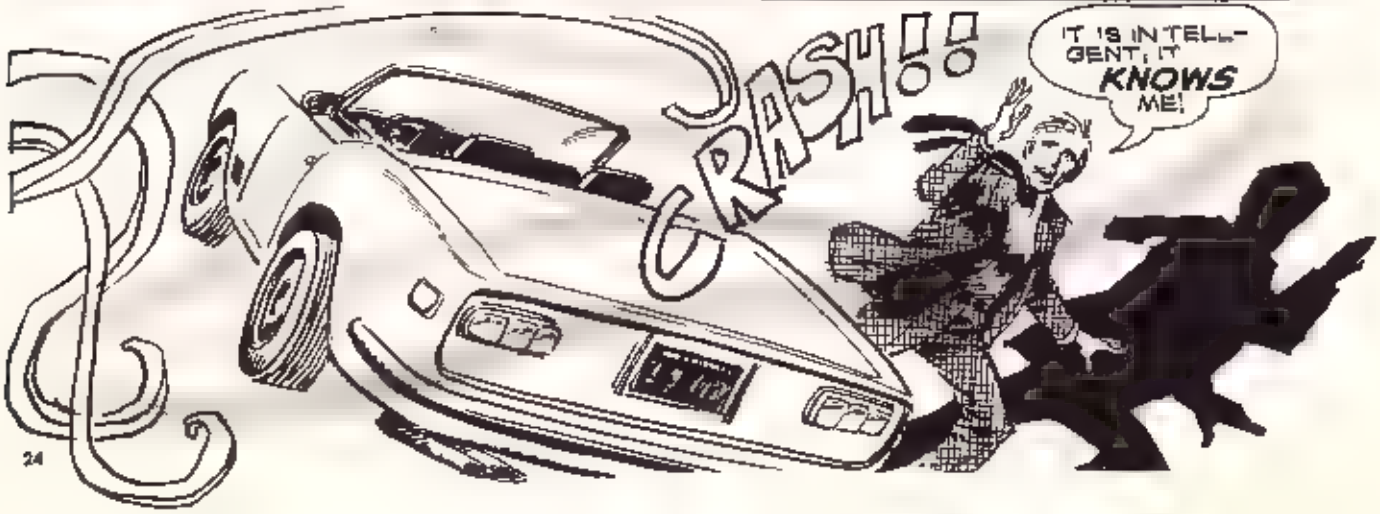
LATER...
IS THE GIRL ALL RIGHT?
SURE: WE'RE BOTH ALL RIGHT!
LATER AT AN URGENT CONFERENCE...
WE'VE GOT TO ACT FAST, GENTLEMEN! I DON'T THINK THE THING DEAD!
INCREDIBLE!
IN OUR MINE WHAT COULD IT BE?
I SAY CALL OUT THE MILITIA!
FIRST, HEAR WHAT PROFESSOR SAXE HAS TO SAY
THANK YOU. I WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL!
WE ARE DEALING WITH AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY! THIS THING MUST HAVE WANDERED UP FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, IN SEARCH OF FOOD, OR PREY AND THERE MAY BE OTHERS LIKE IT...
THAT'S FINE, PROFESSOR, BUT HOW DO WE KILL IT?
PERHAPS A BOMB COULD DESTROY IT!
GREAT SCOTT! IT-IT IS OUT! L-LOOK!

THAT SETTLES IT! WE'VE GOT TO CALL IN THE GOVERNMENT!

I MUST SAVE PRUE!

TOD NOW THINKS ONLY OF PRUE ..
GOT TO GET TO THE MINE HOSPITAL! THAT THING HAS GONE MAD!


MY CAR! THE BRUTE SEEMS TO BE AFTER ME!


CRASH!!!
IT'S INTELLIGENT, IT KNOWS ME!

MINUTES LATER...
W-WHAT'S HAPPENING, TOD? ALL THOSE SCREAMS!
NO TIME TO TALK! GOT TO GET AWAY!

BUT YOU JUST CAN'T CARRY ME ABOUT IN THE STREETS LIKE THIS!
I KNOW! GOT TO FIND SOME WAY TO...

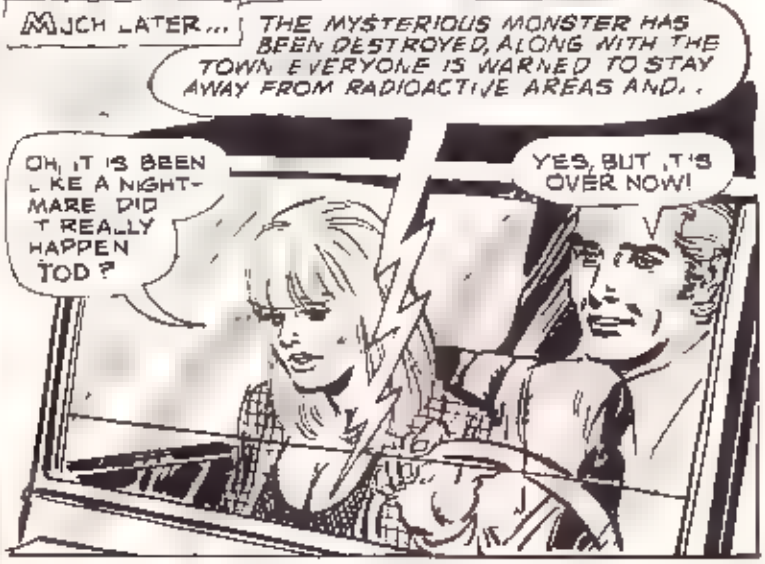
THAT OLD JALOPY! JUST THE THING... IF IT'LL GO!
WHY IS EVERYONE RUNNING AROUND? WHAT'S WRONG, TOD? TELL ME... TELL ME...

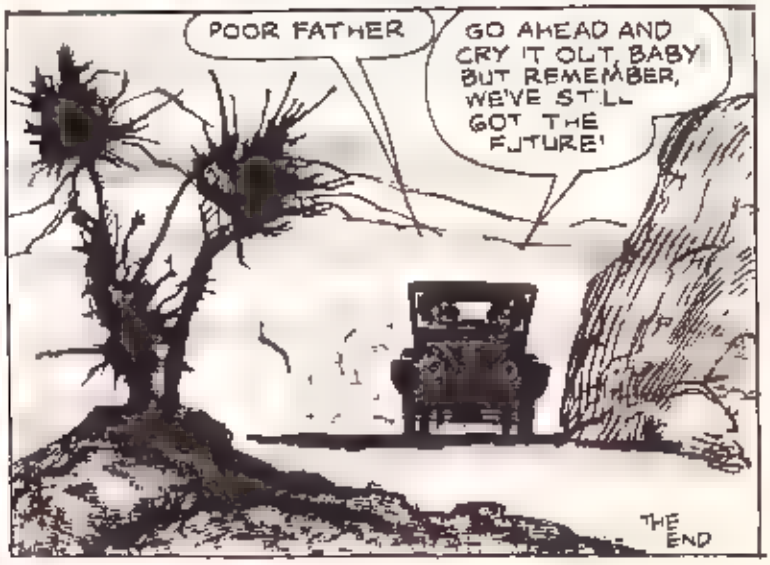
MEANTIME IN WASHINGTON...
YES, MR PRESIDENT! I UNDERSTAND - A NATIONAL EMERGENCY! ALL PRIORITY; BUT SIR! THE... BOMB!

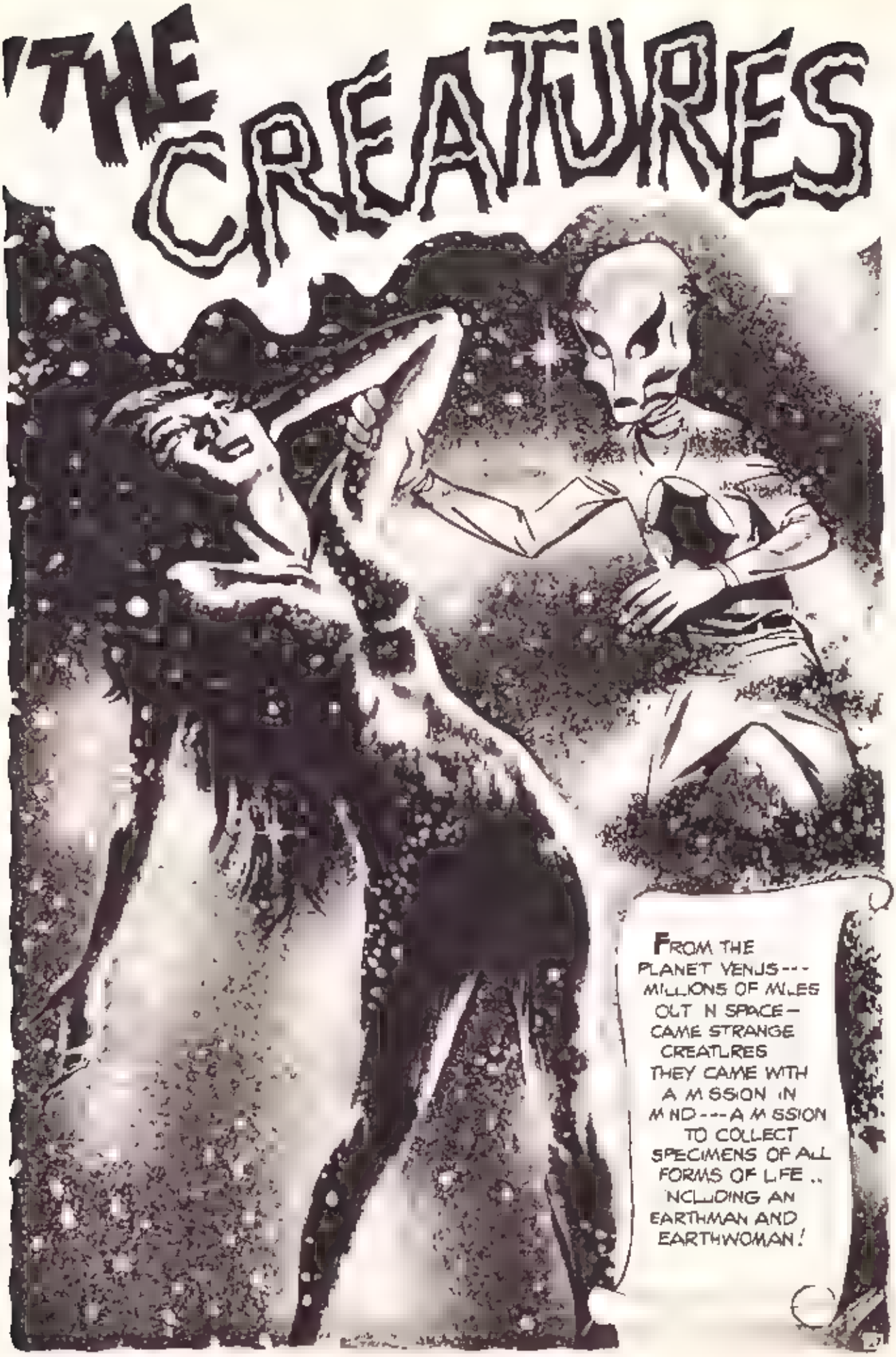
SOON AFTER AT AN AIRFIELD...
HEY WHAT'S UP?
DONT KNOW, BUT IT'S NO DRY RUN THIS TIME!
YEAH WE'RE REALLY GOING TO DROP IT!

AND ON A DISTANT HILL,
WE WERE LUCKY I FOUND THAT OLD JALOPY!
THOSE POOR PEOPLE—
—WILL LOSE THEIR HOMES—IT'S LUCKY THEY WERE EVACUATED IN TIME!

AND OVER THE TOWN...
BOMBS AWAY!


MUCH LATER...
THE MYSTERIOUS MONSTER HAS BEEN DESTROYED, ALONG WITH THE TOWN. EVERYONE IS WARNED TO STAY AWAY FROM RADIOACTIVE AREAS AND...
OH, IT IS BEEN LIKE A NIGHTMARE DID IT REALLY HAPPEN TOO?
YES, BUT IT'S OVER NOW!


POOR FATHER
GO AHEAD AND CRY IT OUT, BABY BUT REMEMBER, WE'VE STILL GOT THE FUTURE!
THE END


THE CREATURES
FROM THE PLANET VENUS --- MILLIONS OF MILES OUT IN SPACE — CAME STRANGE CREATURES THEY CAME WITH A MISSION IN MIND --- A MISSION TO COLLECT SPECIMENS OF ALL FORMS OF LIFE .. INCLUDING AN EARTHMAN AND EARTHWOMAN!

WHILE THE BUSY BUSTLING CROWDS OF NEW YORK GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS--A STRANGE BEAM OF LIGHT SINGLES OUT THE FIGURE OF JERRY DRAGO ..

EEIAH!

GOOD HEAVENS— WHAT'S THAT?

CIGAR

I. .CAN'T BREATHE! FEEL LIKE I'M....FLOATING IN.... A R!! I. .OH-H-H!

AND A SHORT TIME LATER THE STRANGE RAY FOCUSES ON JILL JOHNSON ..

HELP! HELP! I'M BEING LIFTED INTO THE AIR; MY HEAD.... DIZZY! I...

WHEN JERRY DRAGO OPENS HIS EYES—HE FINDS HIMSELF FACING A CREATURE FROM SOME HORRIBLE DREAM...

WHERE AM I? W-WHAT HAPPENED? I MUST BE HAVING A NIGHTMARE!

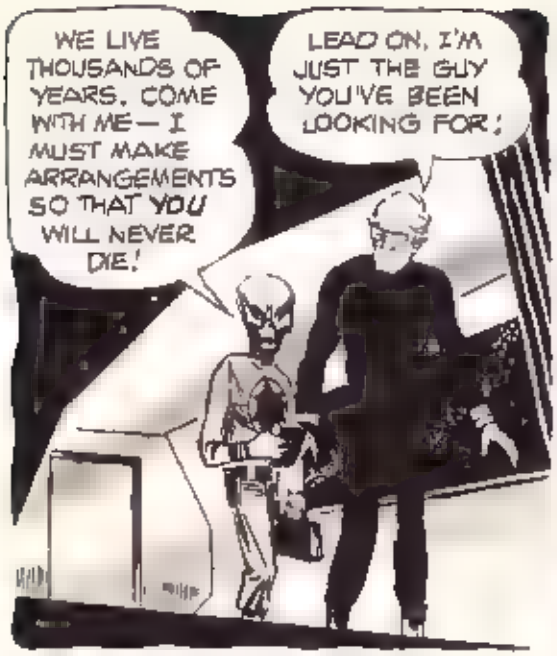
NO, MY FRIEND, YOU ARE NOT HAVING A NIGHTMARE BUT YOU WILL DISCOVER SOON ENOUGH WHAT HAPPENED!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT ARE YOU? AND HOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND MY LANGUAGE?

I AM FROM THE PLANET VENUS .. AND I AM TAKING YOU BACK WITH ME. WE PLAN TO STUDY YOU! BUT YOU ONLY THINK YOU HEAR MY VOICE! I AM TRANSMITTING THOUGHT WAVES!

EARTH PEOPLE ARE VERY SHORT LIVED I DEDUCE THAT FROM YOUR MEMORY CELLS. EARTH PEOPLE VERY SELDOM LIVE OVER A HUNDRED YEARS!

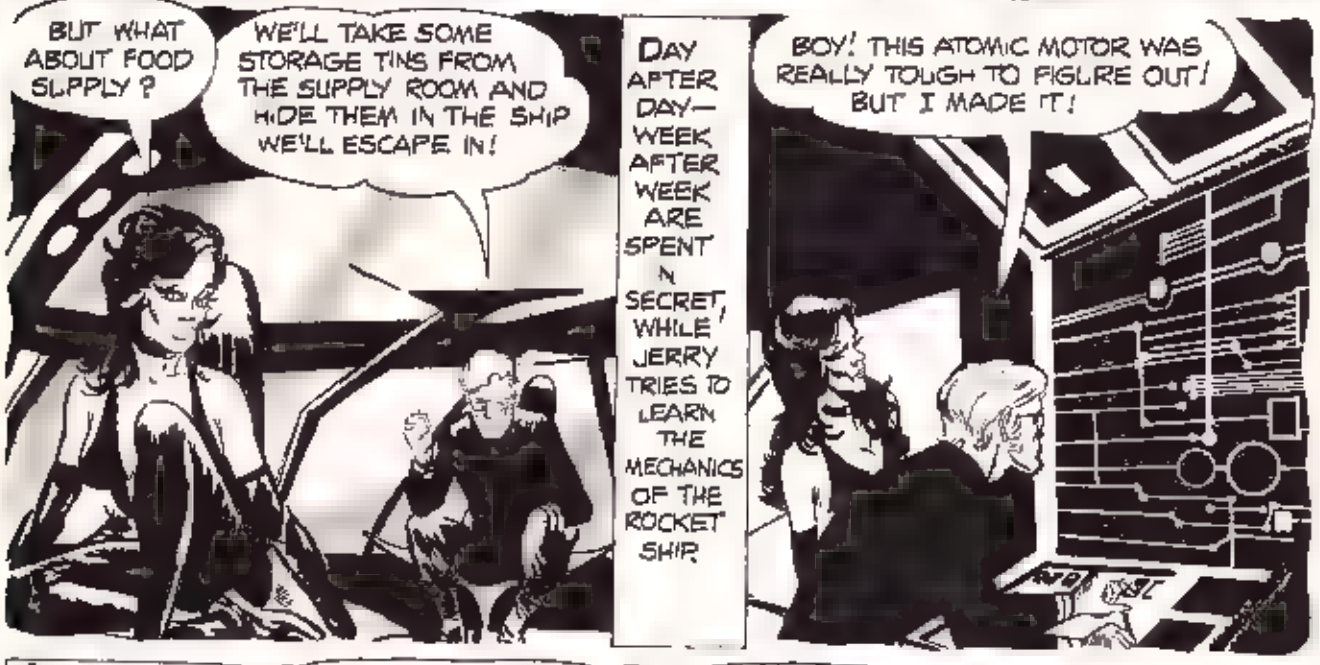
HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT A GUY TO LIVE—FOREVER?



AS THE CREATURE FROM THE PLANET VENUS BEGINS HIS TASK, JERRY DRAGO AND JILL JOHNSON DOZE OFF INTO THE REALM OF DREAMS. LATER, AS THEY AWAKE, THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN A STRANGE CELL...

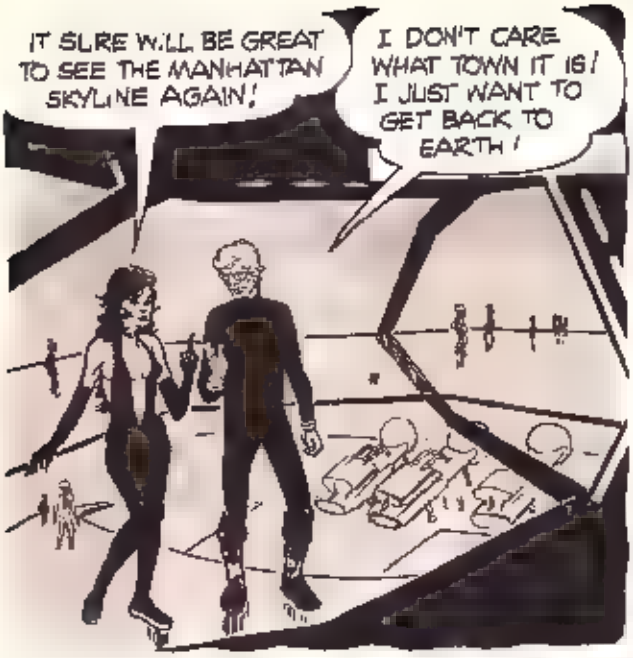
LATER, IN THE SPACESHIP'S ENGINE ROOM..

WEEKS LATER, AFTER THEY LAND ON VENUS JERRY AND JILL ARE GIVEN THEIR FREEDOM...
JERRY! WHAT ABOUT THAT IDEA YOU HAD FOR ESCAPING?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, JILL....THE TIME IS RIPE — NOW HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO..


BUT WHAT ABOUT FOOD SUPPLY?
WE'LL TAKE SOME STORAGE TINS FROM THE SUPPLY ROOM AND HIDE THEM IN THE SHIP WE'LL ESCAPE IN!
DAY AFTER DAY— WEEK AFTER WEEK ARE SPENT IN SECRET, WHILE JERRY TRIES TO LEARN THE MECHANICS OF THE ROCKET SHIP.
BOY! THIS ATOMIC MOTOR WAS REALLY TOUGH TO FIGURE OUT! BUT I MADE IT!

AND LATER...
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE EARTH! I'VE JUST GOT TO!
SHHH! NOT SO LOUD — I DON'T WANT TO BE DISCOVERED WHEN WE'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR!

WE'LL ESCAPE FIRST CHANCE WE GET! AND IT WON'T BE TOO LONG NOW—YOU'LL SEE!



DEEP INTO SPACE GOES THE SPEEDY ATOM-POWERED SHIP, STRAIGHT ON ITS COURSE TOWARD THE THIRD PLANET OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM— *EARTH*....

WHEN THE SHIP FINALLY REACHES EARTH AND LANDS IN THE U.S.A., JERRY AND JILL FIND THEMSELVES LAUGHED AT BY THE DISBELIEVING CROWD.

. AND THESE PEOPLE LIVE TO BE TEN THOUSAND YEARS OLD!

HA! HA! WHAT IS THIS, A PUBLICITY STUNT FOR SOME MOVIE?

THEY'RE LAUGHING... THEY DON'T BELIEVE US! WE MUST CONVINCE THEM!!

BUT HOW?... WAIT: LET'S GO SEE DR. BEDOLL, HE'LL BELIEVE US!!

LATER--IN THE STUDY OF DR. BEDOLL, THE WORLD'S GREATEST ASTRONOMER...

BUT, DOCTOR— YOU *MUST* BELIEVE US!— THIS CLOTHING— THE SHIP--*PROVE* WE WERE THERE!

I'VE BEEN STUDYING THE PLANETS FOR YEARS! I'M AFRAID I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR STORY!

UNABLE TO CONVINCE ANYONE OF THEIR EXPERIENCES—JERRY AND JILL RETURN TO THE PLACE THEY LANDED, ONLY TO FIND..

*GONE!* THE SHIP IS GONE!

I'M ALL MIXED UP— IS THIS ALL A *BAD DREAM!*

IF IT WAS, THEN YOU'RE THE ONLY PART OF THAT DREAM THAT WAS REAL!

NO—I WAS WRONG! THOSE MONSTERS WERE VERY REAL— AND THAT ADVANCED SCIENCE OF THEIRS COULD HELP EARTH A LOT!

DESPITE RIDICULE AND DISBELIEF— JERRY SET ABOUT BUILDING A COPY OF THE ROCKET SHIP FROM THE PLANS STOLEN FROM THE PLANET VENUS... A BELIEVING FINANCIER BACKS JERRY FINANCIALLY ON HIS PROJECT....

WHEN WE RETURN WITH THE SECRET OF PERPETUAL LIFE, FROM VENUS PEOPLE, PEOPLE WILL *HAVE* TO BELIEVE US!

THE END

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TWO INNOCENT PEOPLE SIGHTSEEING IN A LAND OF MYSTERY, FOUND THEMSELVES FACE-TO-FACE WITH LIVING DEAD OF AN ANCIENT LEGEND! THE TALE I AM ABOUT TO UNFOLD... A STORY OF **HORROR** PILED ON **HORROR**... IS THE TALE OF...

# THE DEAD MONSTERS

I'VE GOT TO HELP HER... BUT HOW CAN I FIGHT THOSE MONSTERS?

**COME!** YOU MUST JOIN US!

THE SETTING WAS LHAS, A REMOTE VILLAGE CLOSE TO THE BORDER OF TIBET! JEFF AND MARJORIE CAPPER, A HAPPY, YOUNG SIGHT-SEEING COUPLE WERE JUST BEING BROUGHT TO A SMALL COTTAGE!

THIS IS THE PLACE, SAHIB!

I WAS AFRAID OF THAT! WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME TO THIS SPOT, MARJORIE?

NOW DON'T CRAB, JEFF! YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL MY GRANDFATHER WAS BORN HERE, AND I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE IT!

THESE PEOPLE HAVEN'T CHANGED THEIR WAY OF LIVING FOR A HUNDRED YEARS! I COULD THINK OF A MORE COMFORTABLE PLACE TO SPEND A SECOND HONEYMOON!

JUST WAIT! THE DRIVER PROMISED TO SEND HIS WIFE TO HELP ME CLEAN UP THE COTTAGE! I'M SURE YOU'LL ENJOY YOUR STAY ONCE I GET THINGS CLEANED AND IN ORDER!

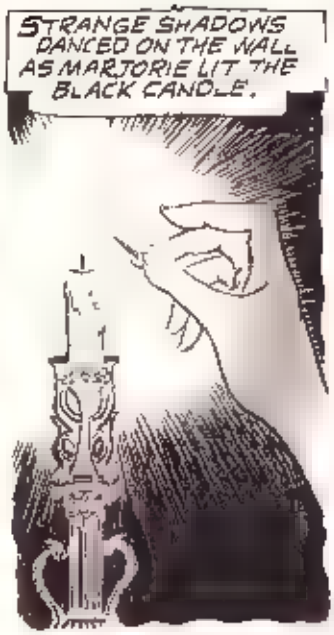


Page replaced by Scan-Lee

JEFF SOON RECONCILED HIMSELF TO THE SURROUNDINGS AND THE DAYS PASSED PLEASANTLY, WITH NO HINT OF THE UNSPEAKABLE HORROR THAT WAS WAITING...
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL OUT! LET'S TAKE THE BIKES AND RIDE INTO THE HILLS!
NO! NOT TO THE HILLS
ALL RIGHT DARLING!
IF YOU GO TO HILLS, YOU MUST TAKE THIS CHARM TO PROTECT YOU AGAINST THE EVIL ONES!
EVIL ONES? WHO ARE THEY?
MANY YEARS AGO, THE EVIL ONES WORSHIPPED THE DEVIL, AND WHEN THEY WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH, THEY HID IN A GIANT CAVE. THEY ARE WAITING THERE NOW. WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO LIGHT THE BLACK CANDLE OF LIFE THAT WOULD BRING THEM BACK TO THE LIVING!
I DON'T THINK WE'LL RUN INTO ANY EVIL ONES TODAY, SIMA. YOU CAN KEEP THE CHARM!
BUT JEFF--
THE OLD WOMAN WAS SO SERIOUS, JEFF! MAYBE...
MAYBE NOTHING. ALL THESE PEOPLE ARE VERY SUPERSTITIOUS... THEY STICK TO OLD LEGENDS. PROBABLY GET A KICK OUT OF TRYING TO FRIGHTEN STRANGERS!
MARJORIE CAPPER WASN'T TOO SURE ALL THE OLD LEGENDS WERE LAUGHING MATTERS. EVEN THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE DAY COULDN'T QUITE DISPEL THE FORBODING SHADOW OF TERROR THAT SUDDENLY CLOAKED HER!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING CONCRETE TO WORRY ABOUT, YOU MIGHT TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE CLOUDS. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR A DOWNPOUR ANY MINUTE

And THEN IT HAPPENED...RAIN...
WE'D BETTER FIND SOME KIND OF A DRY SPOT!
THERE'S A CAVE IN THE SIDE OF THAT CLIFF OVER THERE
THEY MOVED HURRIEDLY INTO THE BLACK CAVE...
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A VIOLENT STORM!
JEFF... I-I DON'T LIKE IT!
THEN, ALMOST LIKE A FINGER OF EVIL POINTED AT THEM A BOLT OF LIGHTNING SEEMED TO AIM FOR THE DARKNESS OF THE CAVE ITSELF
LOOK OUT!
CRASH
ARE...ARE YOU OKAY?
I-YES...BUT LOOK BEHIND YOU! THE WALL!
THEY STEPPED WARILY THROUGH THE RUBBLE AND STARED IN AMAZEMENT AT THE EERIE SIGHT THAT MET THEIR EYES. IT WAS MARJORIE WHO DETECTED THE SMELL OF DEATH AND REMEMBERED THE OLD LEGEND...
JEFF, LET'S LEAVE! I'M SCARED!
MARJORIE...WILL YOU GROW UP?

THERE'S NOTH NG TO FEAR, DEAR! TH.S S THE MOST AMAZ.NG PLACE I'VE EVER SEEN. I'D L KE TO INSPECT IT MORE CLOSE.Y L GHT THE CANDLE THERE HONEY.
YES, JEFF!


STRANGE SHADOWS DANCED ON THE WALL AS MARJORIE LIT THE BLACK CANDLE.

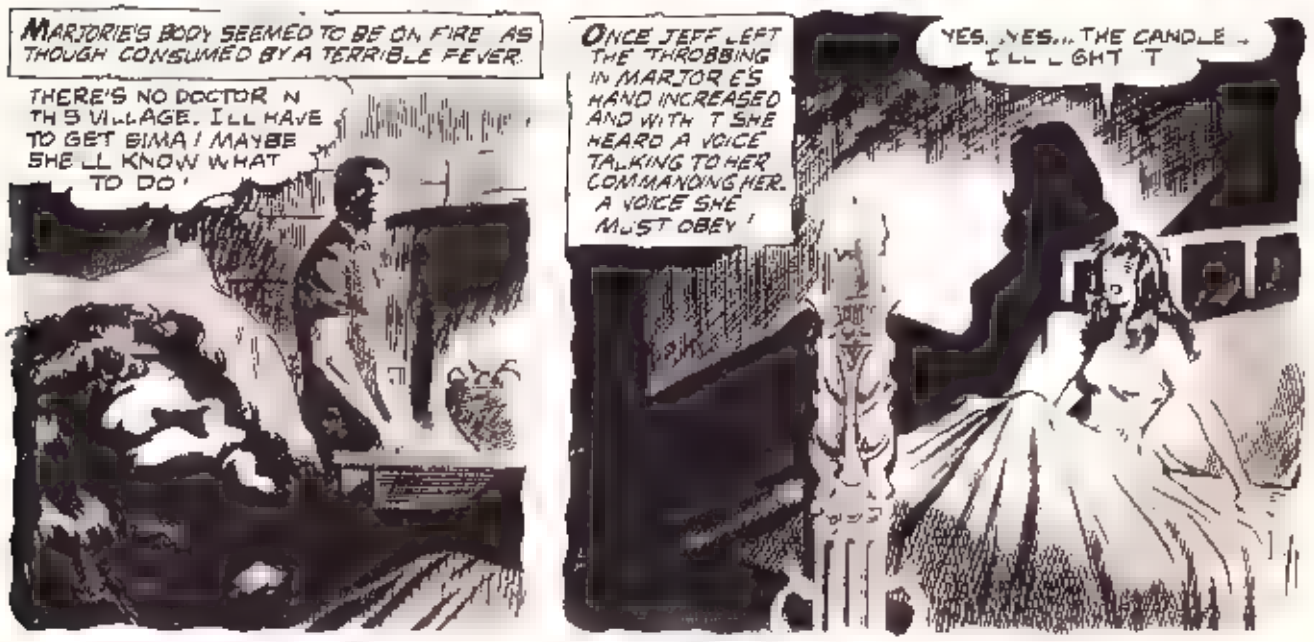
I. I THOUGHT I HEARD A RLSTLING SOUND. DION'T YOU?
NO! I DIDN'T HEAR A TH NG!

OUCH!
WHAT HAPPENED?

THEY NEVER KNEW WHAT TERROR HAD ALMOST BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT AS THE CANDLE FELL TO THE FLOOR AND THE SPUTTERING FLAME WENT OUT THE GRISLY OCCUPANTS OF THE ANCIENT COFFINS SANK BACK INTO THE SLEEP FROM WHICH THEY HAD BEEN REVIVED!
...
SOME OF THE HOT WAX FROM THE CANDLE DRIPPED ON MY HAND BUT IT S ALL R.GHT NOW!
THAT'S A PRETTY NASTY BURN YOU HAVE THERE!

I THINK WE OUGHT TO GET BACK TO THE VILLAGE AND TAKE CARE OF IT. THE RAIN MIGHT HAVE STOPPED BY NOW.
OKAY... BUT I'LL TAKE THE CANDLE WITH ME. SOMEHOW I F ND T VERY FASCINATING!

BY THE TIME THEY REACHED THEIR COTTAGE THE NIGHT WAS UPON THEM... A NIGHT THAT WAS TO BRING THEM MORE TERROR THAN EITHER OF THEM COULD IMAGINE IN THEIR WORST NIGHTMARES!
WHAT IS IT, MARJORIE? WHY ARE YOU HOLDING YOUR HAND OUT LIKE THAT?
I.. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! IT FEELS SO, SO HOT!
I...FEEL...SO... WEAK..
YOU'RE ILL. I'D BETTER PUT YOU TO BED!


MARJORIE'S BODY SEEMED TO BE ON FIRE AS THOUGH CONSUMED BY A TERRIBLE FEVER.
THERE'S NO DOCTOR IN THIS VILLAGE. I'LL HAVE TO GET SIMA! MAYBE SHE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!
ONCE JEFF LEFT THE THROBBING IN MARJORIE'S HAND INCREASED AND WITH IT SHE HEARD A VOICE TALKING TO HER COMMANDING HER. A VOICE SHE MUST OBEY!
YES...YES... THE CANDLE... I'LL LIGHT IT

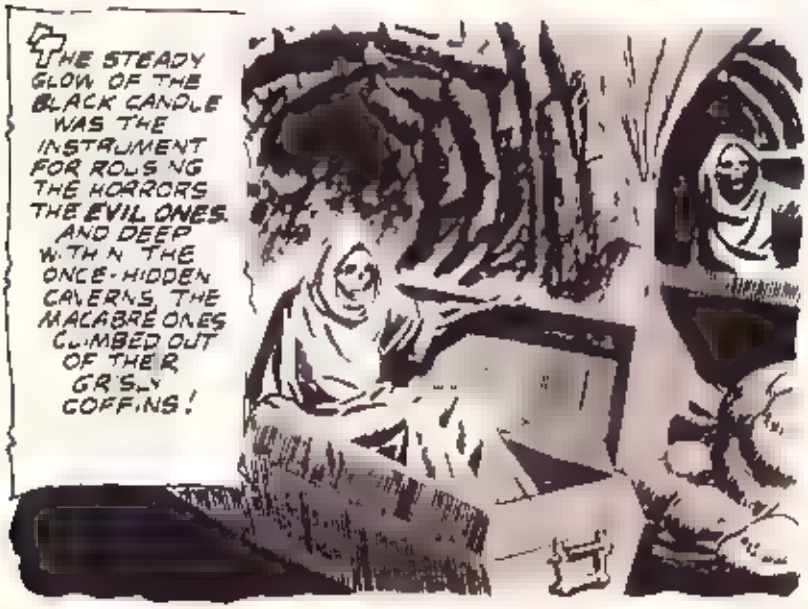
And AS JEFF RETURNED WITH SIMA..
SHE'S UP AGAIN! SHE MUST BE.
THE CANDLE! WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
WE FOUND IT IN A CAVE
FOOL! THAT IS THE BLACK CANDLE OF LIFE. WE MUST STOP HER OR SHE WILL AWAKEN THE EVIL ONES!

REALIZING THE FULL HORROR THAT MIGHT EXIST JEFF RACED INTO THE COTTAGE
MARJORIE! GIVE ME THAT CANDLE!
NO!
TAKE IT AWAY FROM HER
HER STRENGTH SHE'S STRONGER THAN I AM
IT'S THE POWER OF THE EVIL ONES HELPING HER

I MUST WARN THE VILLAGE THE EVIL ONES...
MARJORIE! MARJORIE!

INTO THE NIGHT SHE RAN AS IF POSSESSED BY FORCES BEYOND HER CONTROL CLIMBING HIGHER AND HIGHER TOWARDS THE TOP OF THE CLIFF BELOW WHICH WAS THE VERY CAVE WHERE THE CANDLE HAD BEEN FOUND...
I'VE GOT TO CATCH UP TO HER STOP HER BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENS.

AT LAST, SHE REACHED THE SUMMIT, AND...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO IF I CRY OUT TO HER IT MAY STARTLE HER AND CAUSE HER TO FALL!


THE STEADY GLOW OF THE BLACK CANDLE WAS THE INSTRUMENT FOR ROUSING THE HORRORS THE EVIL ONES. AND DEEP WITHIN THE ONCE-HIDDEN CAVERNS, THE MACABRE ONES CLIMBED OUT OF THEIR GRISLY COFFINS!

COME WE MUST FIND THE ONE WHO LIBERATED US
THEN WE WILL LIGHT THE SACRED FIRE

And THE VILLAGERS AROUSED BY SUVAS AWFUL NEWS, RUSHED TO DO THE ONLY THING THEY FELT COULD SAVE THEM FROM THE CREATURES' VENGEANCE

WE MUST HURRY WHILE THERE IS YET TIME!

YES! THE CAVE OF THE EVIL ONES MUST BE SEALED BEFORE THEY BECOME FREE!

THE...THE EVIL ONES! THEY ARE FREE!

IT IS TOO LATE.

STUNNED...MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE RAN IN TERROR FROM THE DREADED LEGENDARY EVIL ONES

THEY ARE DEVILS FROM THE DEAD

RUN TO YOUR HOMES LOCK THE DOORS!

BUT THE EVIL ONES HAD NO INTEREST IN THE VILLAGERS! INSTEAD THEY CLIMBED SLOWLY UP THE TREACHEROUS PATH TO THE TOP OF THE CLIFF!

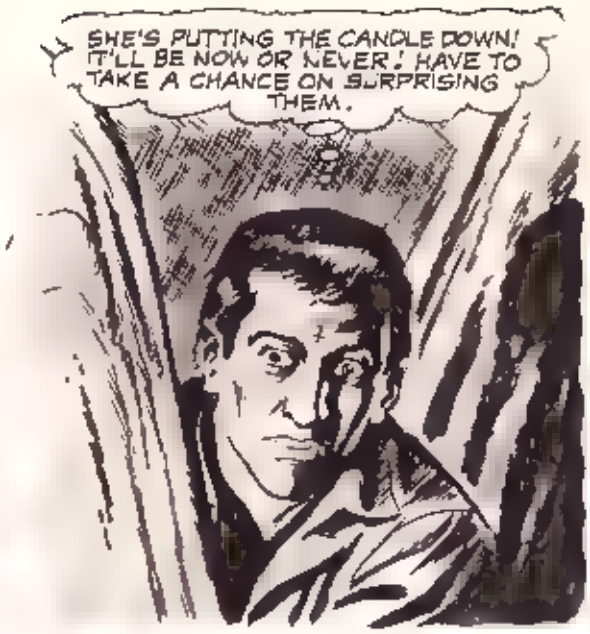
THOSE MONSTERS ARE AFTER MARJORIE...THEY WON'T GET HER NOT AS LONG AS I HAVE A GUN!

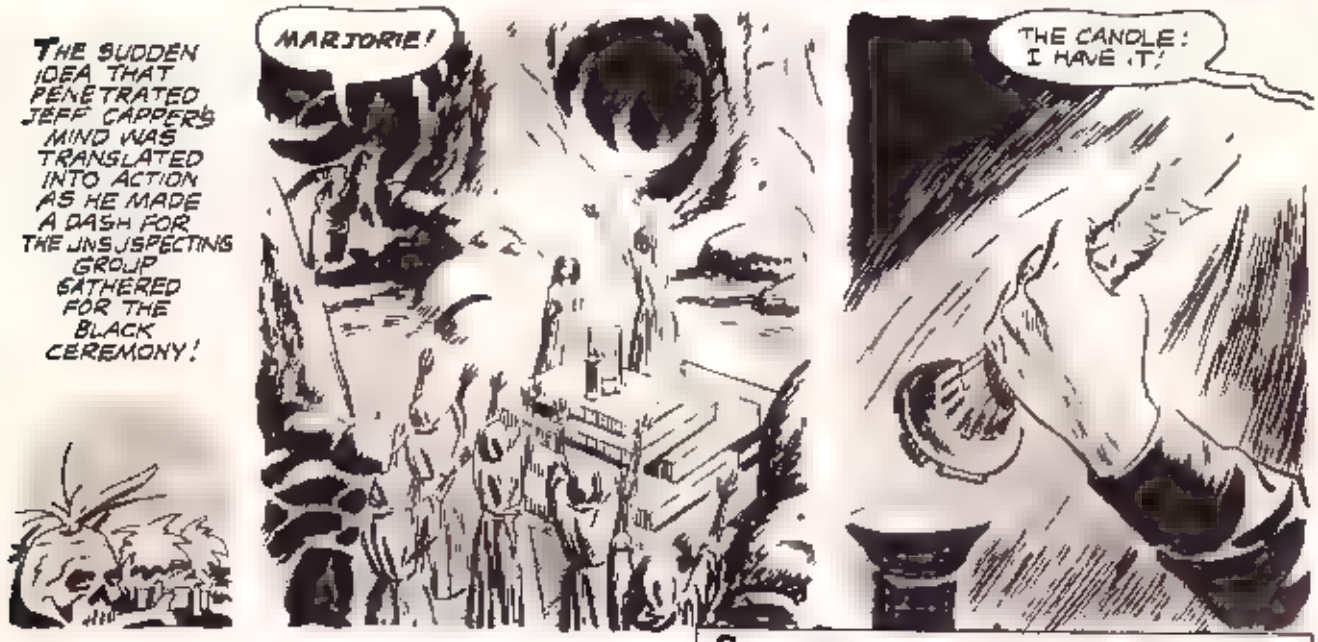
JEFF EMPTIED HIS GUN AT THEM CERTAIN EACH BULLET HAD FOUND ITS MARK AND YET THEY CAME... JAMES MIND ALMOST SNAPPED WITH THE TERROR OF THE MOMENT!

BULLETS DON'T STOP THEM! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY

JEFF RECOVERED FROM HIS MOMENTARY HYSTERIA AND HUDDLED IN THE SHELTER OF A NEARBY ROCK. .
THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE HARMING HER; MAYBE THE WAX THAT FELL ON HER ARM COMPLETED SOME KIND OF BOND BETWEEN HER AND THOSE.. THOSE THINGS!
YOU HAVE BROUGHT US BACK FROM OUR GREAT SLEEP. COME WITH US TO OUR RESTING PLACE WHERE WE WILL MAKE YOU ONE OF US!
And ONCE AGAIN, THE EVIL PROCESSION STARTED...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MARJORIE IS DOING THIS! I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW!
THEY--THEY'RE GOING BACK INTO THE CAVE. WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO GET HER OUT AGAIN?
INSIDE THE CAVE...
IF ONLY I KNEW HOW TO SEND THEM BACK TO THE DEATH FROM WHICH THEY CAME!
I COMMAND THE CEREMONIAL FIRE OF THE ANCIENT ORDER TO APPEAR!

AT THE WORDS OF COMMAND, JEFF WAS ASTONISHED TO SEE...
GOOD GRIEF! THE FIRE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE
THE FIRE!
THE FIRE!


SHE'S PUTTING THE CANDLE DOWN! IT'LL BE NOW OR NEVER! HAVE TO TAKE A CHANCE ON SURPRISING THEM.


THE SUDDEN IDEA THAT PENETRATED JEFF CAPPER'S MIND WAS TRANSLATED INTO ACTION AS HE MADE A DASH FOR THE UNSUSPECTING GROUP GATHERED FOR THE BLACK CEREMONY!
MARJORIE!
THE CANDLE! I HAVE IT!

YOU WILL DIE IN THE SACRED FIRE.
NOT IF WHAT I'M PLANNING TO DO WORKS!
PANIC FILLED THE FACES OF THE LIVING DEAD AND THEY RECOILED.. AS IF FROM A VISION OF THEIR ULTIMATE FATE.. WHEN JEFF DROPPED THE BLACK CANDLE OF LIFE INTO THE CENTER OF THE BLAZING FIRE ..
NO! NO!
THE CANDLE! THE CANDLE!

THEY---THEY'RE MELTING AWAY INTO DUST, AS THE BLACK CANDLE MELTS IN THE FIRE.
THOSE WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD LONG AGO, DISSOLVED INTO THE NOTHINGNESS OF DUST..

OHHHH!
MARJORIE DARLING

THE BREEZE BRUSHED THE DUST ACROSS HIS FEET AS HE MADE HIS WAY OUT OF THE EVIL CAVERN AND BACK TO THE WORLD OF STARS, LIFE AND GOOD CLEAN AIR.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHERE ARE THE EVIL ONES?
THEY'RE GONE. FOREVER! BUT REMEMBER I DON'T WANT MY WIFE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED! NEVER MENTION IT TO HER! DON'T MENTION THE LEGEND AGAIN!

THE VILLAGERS NEVER SPOKE OF THE BLACK CANDLE OF LIFE AGAIN AND WHEN MARJORIE CARPER WAS REVIVED SHE HAD NO IDEA OF THE HORROR THROUGH WHICH SHE HAD LIVED. BUT IF, IN YEARS TO COME, SHE WAKES UP OUT OF A SOUND SLEEP SCREAMING IN TERROR... CAN ANYONE BLAME HER? HEE! HEE!
THE END

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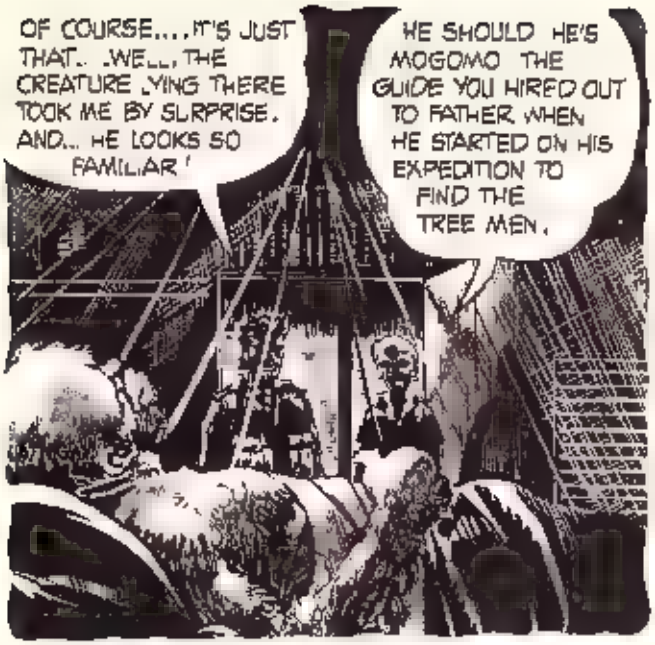
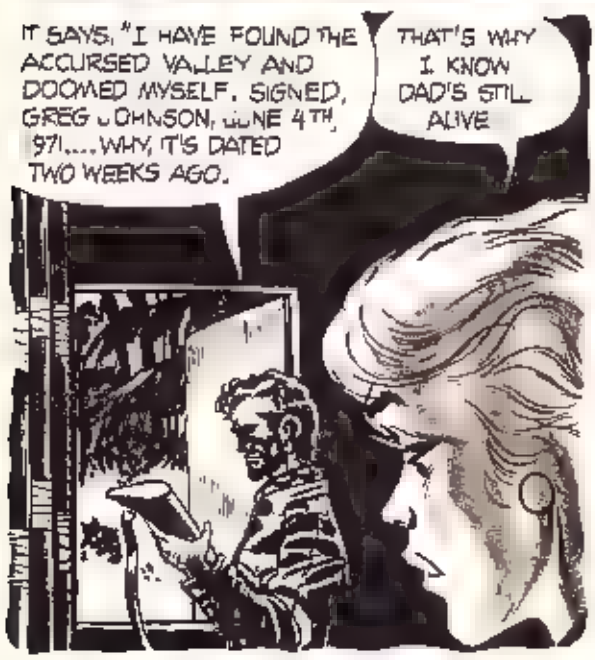
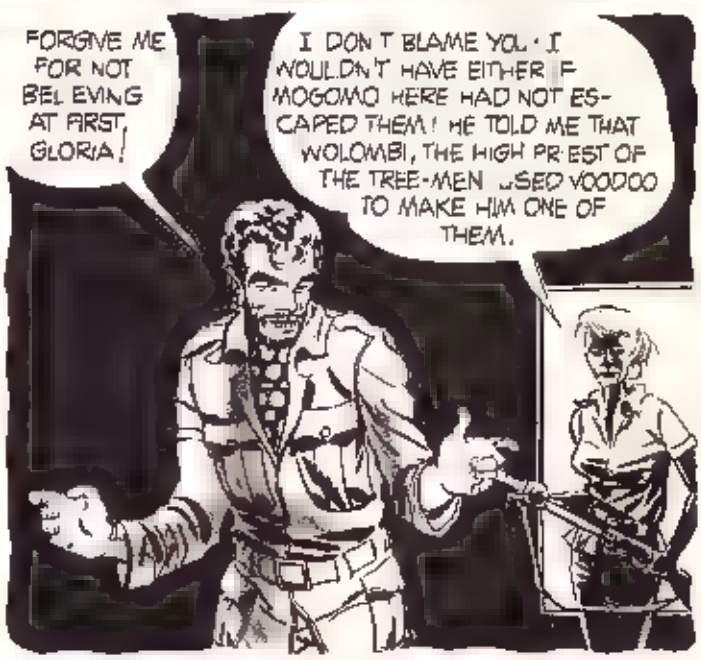
# THINGS OF HORROR

"TREE MEN! GNARLED FACES! BRANCHY ARMS!" SUPERSTITIOUS NATIVE BUNK, THOUGHT WILL GORDON, THE JUNGLE-HUNTER... UNTIL WITH HIS OWN EYES BULGING OUT IN TERROR, HE SAW THEM.


OF COURSE....IT'S JUST THAT.. .WELL, THE CREATURE .YING THERE TOOK ME BY SURPRISE. AND... HE LOOKS SO FAMILIAR!
HE SHOULD HE'S MOGOMO THE GUIDE YOU HIRED OUT TO FATHER WHEN HE STARTED ON HIS EXPEDITION TO FIND THE TREE MEN.

WHAT?
IT'S TRUE. THIS S WHAT MOGOMO BROUGHT BACK TO ME FROM THE VALLEY. DAD S GUNSTOCK. THERE S A MESSAGE NSCRIBED ON IT. READ IT.


IT SAYS, "I HAVE FOUND THE ACCURSED VALLEY AND DOOMED MYSELF. SIGNED, GREG JOHNSON, JUNE 4TH, 1971....WHY, IT'S DATED TWO WEEKS AGO.
THAT'S WHY I KNOW DAD'S STILL ALIVE

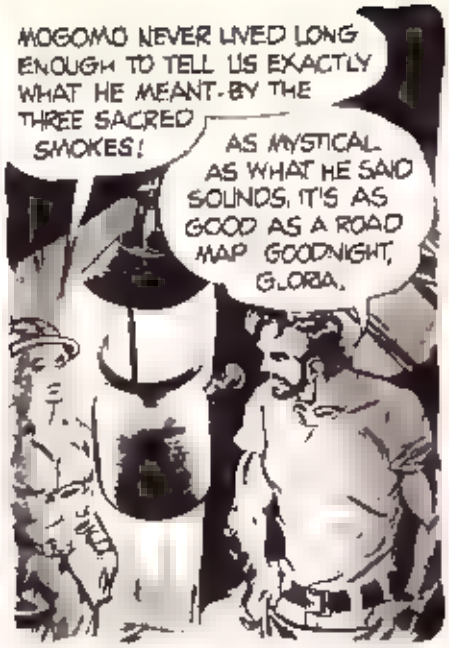

FORGIVE ME FOR NOT BELIEVING AT FIRST, GLORIA!
I DON'T BLAME YOU. I WOULDN'T HAVE EITHER IF MOGOMO HERE HAD NOT ESCAPED THEM! HE TOLD ME THAT WOLOMBI, THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE TREE-MEN USED VOODOO TO MAKE HIM ONE OF THEM.

MOGOMO.., CAN YOU HEAR YOUR OLD BOSSMAN GORDON? YOU MUST TELL ME.. WHERE S THE ACCURSED VALLEY?
B-BOSS M-MAN GORDON? GOOD, GOOD .G-GO SOUTH TO-TO THE SACRED THREE SMOKES... OHHGGRRR.

HE S DEAD

WILL YOU HELP ME LOOK FOR DAD?
YES.

TWO WEEKS LATER
THIS IS AS FAR AS WE CAN GO BY JEEP WE'LL SET UP CAMP HERE AND TRAVEL THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT


MOGOMO NEVER LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO TELL US EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANT BY THE THREE SACRED SMOKES!
AS MYSTICAL AS WHAT HE SAID SOUNDS, IT'S AS GOOD AS A ROAD MAP GOODNIGHT, GLORIA.

EEEEIYAH-H-H
GLORIA!

GOOD HEAVENS! THE TREE MEN!

THANK GOODNESS THESE GUYS CAN BE HURT BY BULLETS.

SUDDENLY A TREE-LIKE ARM DANCES AROUND GORDON'S NECK.
UP ONE OF 'EM'S BEHIND ME.

UGH! FEELS LIKE SOME SLIMY SNAKE!

THE CIGARETTE LIGHTER FELL OUT OF MY POCKET AND LIGHTED UP. THIS MONSTER LOOKS HYPNOTIZED BY THE FLAMES.

GORDON PICKED UP THE FLAMING CIGARETTE LIGHTER AND...
LOOK AT HIM RUN. I WONDER IF... GOOD GRIEF! I FORGOT ABOUT GLORIA.

GLORIA! SHE'S GONE. THOSE GHASTLY MEN TOOK HER... AND ALL MY PORTERS HAVE RUN AWAY.

WITH THE BREAK OF DAWN CAME A FEARFUL DISCOVERY..
THE THREE SACRED SMOKES. WE WERE IN THE VALLEY ALL THE TIME AND NEVER KNEW IT!

AN HOUR LATER.
I ONLY HOPE GLORIA'S STILL ALIVE!

IT'S GLORIA! A-AND THAT MUST BE WOLOMBI, THE HIGH PRIEST MOGOMO SPOKE OF.

HORRIFIED, GORDON WATCHES AS A LIVING TREE MAN IS HURLED INTO THE SACRED FLAMES IN PRIMITIVE SACRIFICIAL CREMATION!
WOW!...AND NOW THEY'RE DRAGGING GLORIA TO THE FIRE.

JUST THEN A DRUM BEATS OUT....
THOSE DRUMS! LIKE SOME SORT OF SIGNAL....THEY'RE LEAVING THE FLAME POOLS AND TAKING GLORIA WITH THEM!

GORDON ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE COMPOUND, AND HE SAW....
GOOD GRIEF! THIS LOOKS LIKE THE GARDEN OF SOME FIENDISH DEVIL....

SUDDENLY...
THANK HEAVENS YOU CAME, GORDON!
YAAHHH!

JOHNSON! JOHNSON... YOU...YOU'RE...
YES, GORDON...WOLOMBI'S TERRIBLE MAGIC CHANGED ME INTO ONE OF THEM! IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME....I'M DOOMED! BUT YOU CAN SAVE GLORIA! YOU MUST!

WOLOMBI IS TO PERFORM HIS VOODOO ON GLORIA TODAY...THAT'S WHY YOU MUST SAVE HER, GORDON!
BUT HOW? I CAN'T FIGHT TWO THOUSAND TREES!

I KNOW...BUT I CAN! THESE TREE MEN FEAR FIRE! GIVE ME MATCHES, GORDON! HURRY, MAN!
NO WONDER THAT TREE MAN FLED WHEN MY LIGHTER ACCIDENTLY LIT UP. HERE, TAKE IT!

YES! WE ARE VEGETABLE, THEREFORE COMBUSTIBLE! NOW GO TO THE DAIS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COMPOUND WHERE WOLOMBI WILL ANOINT GLORIA FOR THE RITUAL! WAIT THERE AND BE READY!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, JOHNSON!

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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GORDON PICKED GLORIA UP AND STARTED OFF ON THE LONG TREK BACK TO THE COAST....